

B-3427 - B-3428
408-444 Grindall St. (North side)
Baltimore, Md.
Private access

1890-1908

The north side of the 400 block of Grindall St. is improved with two separate groups of houses set high on the hill and reached by steep flights of stone steps leading to front terraces. At 408-422 Grindall St. there is a row of two story, two bay wide brown brick houses with shed roofs and sheet metal cornices, built in 1907-1908 by Walter Hampson. To the east, at 436-444 Grindall St. there is a row of two story, two bay wide brick houses with shed roofs and bracketed cornices built in the early 1890's by Henry Wessel. These houses originally had wooden front porches but they are now gone.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

436-444 Grindall St.

CITY, TOWN

Baltimore

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

☐ DISTRICT
☒ BUILDING(S)
☐ STRUCTURE
☐ SITE
☐ OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

☐ PUBLIC
☒ PRIVATE
☐ BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

☐ IN PROCESS
☐ BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

☒ OCCUPIED
☐ UNOCCUPIED
☒ WORK IN PROGRESS (440-444)
ACCESSIBLE
☒ YES: RESTRICTED
☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED
☐ NO

PRESENT USE

☐ AGRICULTURE
☐ COMMERCIAL
☐ EDUCATIONAL
☐ ENTERTAINMENT
☐ GOVERNMENT
☐ INDUSTRIAL
☐ MILITARY
☐ MUSEUM
☐ PARK
☒ PRIVATE RESIDENCE
☐ RELIGIOUS
☐ SCIENTIFIC
☐ TRANSPORTATION
☐ OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Telephone #:

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Records Office Room 601

STREET & NUMBER

Baltimore City Courthouse

CITY, TOWN

Baltimore

STATE

Maryland 21202

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

☐ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

This group of five two story, two bay brick houses with shed roof and bracketed cornices was built as a unit in the 1890's by the same developer who built the row immediately to the rear on Hamburg St. The houses originally had a continuous, bracketed wooden front porch. 436 and 438 Grindall have already been restored; 440-444 Grindall are in the process of being converted into a single dwelling unit, but the facades are being restored as individual houses. Originally there were three more units in the row (446-450 Grindall) but they are now gone.

The houses are two stories in height, 13' wide, and occupy lots 80' deep. Each house is two rooms deep and there are no rear additions. The houses are constructed in running bond. The shed roofs are surmounted by wooden cornices consisting of deeply projecting crown moldings decorated with a row of cut-work scallops, set above panels decorated with scroll-sawed motifs and bordered by a lower molding strip. Five carved brackets per pair of houses (444 Grindall lost its original cornice and has a new, stamped metal cornice) support the cornice and connect it to a lower molding strip decorated with quarter-round carvings. The brackets have unusual ball carvings. The cornice at 440-442 is a reconstruction of the original cornice, based on fragments remaining on this pair of houses and the adjoining pair. Each house has two covered or hooded chimneys located along the east side of the house, one along the front wall, one at the north-east corner.

The door and window openings have segmentally arched brick lintels with scroll-sawed tympanums. The sills are wood. The window openings were originally filled with 4/4 double hung sash, with a wide, center mullion. Today, the windows are filled with new 4/4 sash. Each doorway has a single light transom bordered at its lower edge by a row of quarter-round carvings and a row of cut-work scallops. 436, 442, and 444 Grindall have modern glass and panel doors; 438 Grindall has a modern four panel door with two upper lights; there is no door at 440 Grindall. The houses sit on high basements, the entrances being reached by five stone steps each. Each house has a rectangular basement window opening located to the right of the steps. The houses originally had a wooden porch extending the entire length of the unit. The porch roof was supported by wooden posts, one of which remains. The angle formed by the post and the roof above was filled with scroll-sawed brackets. The porch had a standing seam tin roof and seems to have had a wooden floor. Like the neighboring row of houses at 408-422 Grindall St., this row is set on a high terrace well above the street level. Another set of stone steps for each house leads from the street level to a sloping yard in front of each house. These steps are currently in very deteriorated condition.

The houses are quite small, measuring only 12' x 28' interior dimensions. There is one main front room on each floor and a smaller back room. The stairs are located in the back room, just to the north of the center of the house. The stairs rise from the south-east corner of the back room and run parallel to the street.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

7 DESCRIPTION

B-3428

CONDITION

☐ EXCELLENT
☐ GOOD
☐ FAIR

☐ DETERIORATED
☐ RUINS
☐ UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

☐ UNALTERED
☐ ALTERED

CHECK ONE

☐ ORIGINAL SITE
☐ MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

436-444 Grindall St., cont.

street. The first floor front room has a decorative mantelpiece with reeded sides and freize area. The houses never had working fireplaces, being built with Franklin-type stoves. Nevertheless, the traditional mantelpiece was added over top the Franklin stove. The interior doorways and windows have reeded side moldings and block-end lintels with round end medallions. The rear (north) wall of the kitchen has 3' vertical wainscoting. A rear door with deep single light transom leads to the back yard. On the second floor the original single back rooms were later divided into two rooms when bathrooms were installed (apparently in the 1940's).

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD		AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES 1891-1896

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Henry Wessel

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

This group of houses is representative of a large group of such houses built in the 1880's and 1890's in the southern section of Federal Hill to accomodate the rapidly growing number of workers (many of whom were recent immigrants) employed in the nearby shipyards, packing plants, and factories located along the waterfront east of Covington St. These houses are notable for their small scale and compact floor plans, yet solid construction and practical amenities, in this case the open porches that at one time extended across the facade. An interesting feature of houses of this type is the fact that, despite the simple nature of the form and design, the builder still indulged in an elaborate exterior cornice treatment, which, however, could be easily and cheaply manufactured by machine.

This group of houses was built by Henry Wessel, the owner of Wessel's department store at the south-west corner of Charles and Hamburg Streets, who also built a similar (though the houses are larger) row of houses directly behind these houses at 403-417 E. Hamburg St. Like most such houses of this type, these houses were held by the builder as rental property.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATAACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 13' x 80' each**VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION**

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE

COUNTY

STATE

COUNTY

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

M.E. Hayward / Historic Sites Surveyor

ORGANIZATION

DATE

Maryland Historical Trust / Struever Bros. & Eccles4/79

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

1745 Circle Rd.

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

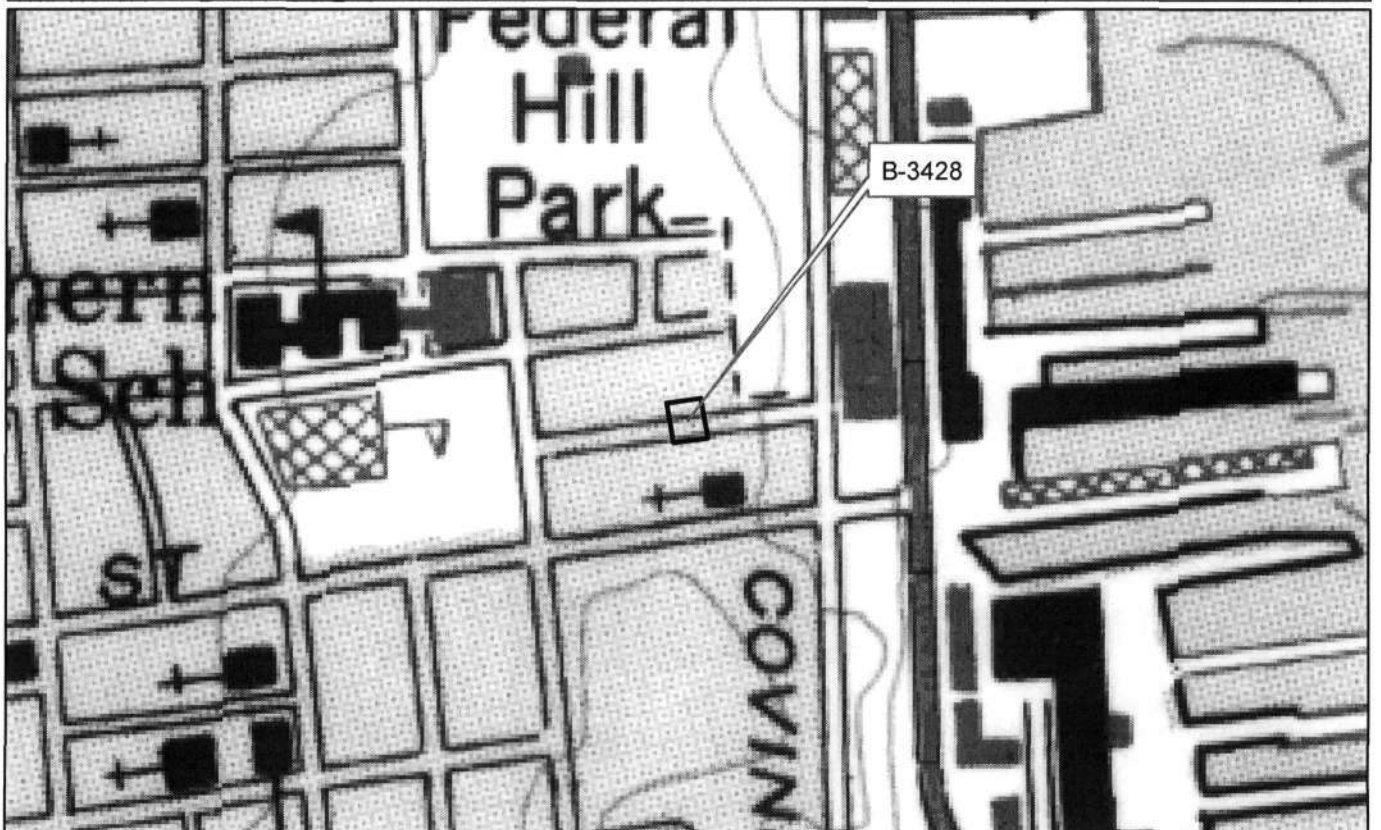
RuxtonMaryland 21204

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 267-1438

B-3428
436-444 Grindall Street
Block 1915 Lots 078H-078D
Baltimore City
Baltimore East Quad.





B-3428

436-444 Grindall St.

M.E.H.

5/79

South elevation



B-3428

436-438 Grindall St.

M.E.H.

5/79

South elevation